

RODEO

Continued from Page 1A

Brown, who has been in Texas since Nov. 1 and practicing daily, said he felt well-prepared for the opportunity he's worked for over the past five years or so, since he settled on steer wrestling — also known as bulldogging — as his preferred rodeo event.

"I knew I belonged coming in," said Brown, a 2011 Baker High School graduate who played quarterback for the Washington State University football team before transferring to Montana State University, where he competed in team roping.

"I had all the confidence in the world, I was healthy, and practice has been going well," he said. "I had a really good steer (in the first round)."

The spectacle that Brown confronted when he entered the arena on Dec. 3 was, like so many things in 2020, different.

And like so many things in 2020, the reason is the coronavirus pandemic.

Restrictions related to the



Jesse Brown with his mother, Vicki, at the National Finals Rodeo in Arlington, Texas.

virus moved the National Finals Rodeo from its traditional home, the Thomas &

Mack Center in Las Vegas, to Texas.

But with about 20,000

"I had all the confidence in the world, I was healthy, and practice has been going well. I had a good steer (in the first round)."

— Jesse Brown, professional steer wrestler from Baker City who's competing in the National Finals Rodeo, which continues through Dec. 12 at Arlington, Texas

spectators watching — "twice as many people as in Baker City," Brown said — it was still a memorable experience.

That's about the same size as the crowd at the Thomas & Mack Center, an indoor arena that has a capacity of about 19,500, compared with Globe Life Field's 40,000.

"It's a first-class program," Brown said. "It's all I could ask for. The stadium's immaculate. It's been great."

Among those thousands of fans were Brown's parents, Jim and Vicki Brown of Baker City.

His younger sister, Allie Brown, a teacher in Baker City, flew to Texas to watch the weekend performances, and she plans to return this coming weekend, Jesse Brown said.

"I've had tons of friends

and family coming in," he said.

Vicki Brown said it was not only exciting to watch her son compete, but also, when he rode a victory lap after his first-place ride in the first round, emotional.

"When he took the victory lap the tears just flowed," Vicki said. "We were just so proud of him. It's his dream come true."

Vicki said Allie, 24, is also thrilled with the chance to watch her older brother compete.

"She's his number one fan," Vicki said of her daughter.

Waiting and watching

After posting a 3.9-second time in the first round, Brown said he wasn't sure it would hold up.

"You've got the best guys

in the world behind you," he said.

But then Brown is accustomed to waiting.

In late September he had to keep tabs, via his cell-phone, on two other steer wrestlers he was vying with for 15th place in the standings. The top 15 competitors, based on earnings, qualify for the National Finals Rodeo.

Brown finished 15th, ahead of the next competitor by \$1,560.

At the National Finals, Brown placed out of the money in the second and third rounds, finishing eighth and 12th, respectively.

In the third round, he said, "I had a tough steer and I didn't have the best run. Hopefully that was my one mistake."

He didn't have that problem in the next round, on Sunday.

Brown posted another 3.9-second run, finishing tied for second with Jorgensen and winning \$18,192.

"Rodeo's so much up and down," he said.

Baker man sentenced for burglary, coercion

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

One of two men accused of entering a Baker City home on Aug. 26 and forcefully taking property from the residents who lived there was sentenced Friday to spend the next nine months in the Baker County Jail.

Aiden Porter Lang, 24, of Baker City pleaded guilty in Baker County Circuit Court to first-degree burglary, a Class A felony; coercion, a Class C felony; and menacing, a Class A misdemeanor.

One count of second-degree kidnapping and two counts of second-degree robbery, both Class B felonies, and one count of second-degree theft, a Class A misdemeanor, were dismissed in a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office, court documents state.

As part of the agreement, Lang will spend the next year in the Baker County Jail, with credit for time served since his Sept. 9, 2020, arrest. His release is set for that same date in 2021.

As part of the plea agreement, Judge Matt Shirtcliff ordered Lang to complete five year's probation upon release from jail. In addition to complying with general probationary terms, Lang must meet special conditions, which include having no contact

with his victims Veronica Taylor, Tamesha McCardy or David Cassaro.

He also must have no contact with his co-defendant, Cesar Lira, who has been held at the Baker County Jail since Sept. 23 on the same charges Lang was accused of.

If Lang's probation is revoked during the five-year term, he will be sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison, according to the agreement.

Lang's probation also could be revoked and the prison term imposed if he fails to testify at any hearing in other cases of parties involved in the incident, including at trial.

Lang also was ordered to pay restitution of \$713 to Veronica L. Taylor.

According to a secret indictment issued Sept. 8, Lang entered the home of Veronica Taylor and David Cassaro in the 2800 block of First Street on April 26. He threatened Taylor and placed her in fear of serious physical injury if she didn't give him a backpack he was seeking or tell him where the backpack was.

The charge of theft, which was dismissed, accused Lang of taking a long board and loose change belonging to Cassaro and a cellphone belonging to Taylor, police reports stated.

And the kidnapping charge, which was dismissed, accused Lang of taking Tamesha McCardy from one place to another without her consent under threat of harm, police said.



Lang

Walden among 27 Republicans who concede Biden won election

By Gary A. Warner

Oregon Capital Bureau

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, is among just 27 Republican members of Congress who will say Democrat Joe Biden has been elected president, according to a survey by The Washington Post published Saturday.

Walden, who did not run for reelection and will leave Congress after 20 years in office, represents all of Oregon east of the Cascades and a portion in the southwest, including Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass.

The newspaper asked all 249 Republicans in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House "Who won the election?"

Walden was among the 70% of those polled who did not respond directly to the newspaper's query. But the Post reviewed recent public statements and put Walden on the list of 27 accepting Biden as the next president based on a Dec. 1 interview for a National Journal podcast.

"I think in the end we'll have a transition here, and you'll have a new president come January 20," Walden said in the interview. "I don't see the math where this gets overturned and so far I've not seen the evidence of the

"I think in the end we'll have a transition here, and you'll have a new president come January 20. I don't see the math where this gets overturned and so far I've not seen the evidence of the amount of fraud it would take, or mistakes — and those occur in every election — to overturn the results in any state"



— Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.

amount of fraud it would take, or mistakes — and those occur in every election — to overturn the results in any state."

Walden added "So, I think the die is pretty well cast" on who would be president.

Walden could not be reached for comment by EO Media Group on Saturday. Former state senator Cliff Bentz, a Republican from Ontario, was elected in November to succeed Walden. Bentz could not be reached for comment on Saturday.

Walden is the only Republican in Oregon's delegation of two U.S. Senators and five members of the U.S. House.

Biden beat President Donald Trump by 7 million votes and an Electoral College win of 310-232.

President Trump has made an unprecedented attempt to overturn the election result,

making unsubstantiated claims of massive voter fraud. He's lost several court decisions trying to stop ballots from being certified, lobbying election officials to set aside results, then attacking them when they declined his demands.

The Electoral College votes on Dec. 14, then the ballots are sent to Congress for review. Trump is challenging these usually pro-forma steps in the election process.

The election ended with Republicans holding a 50-48 majority in the U.S. Senate. Two seats from Georgia will be decided in a run-off on Jan. 5. If Republicans win one or both of the seats, they will retain control of the chamber.

If Democrats win both seats, the Senate would be tied 50-50, with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, a Democrat, breaking any ties as Presi-

dent of the Senate.

Most Democrats have suggested Republicans are not speaking out to say Biden won out of fear that an enraged Trump will scuttle the party's chances in Georgia.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, has not supported Trump's claims, but has pointedly refused to call Biden "president-elect." House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-CA, has refused to discuss Republican plans for dealing with Biden for the next four years.

"Let's wait until (we see) who's sworn in," McCarthy said, "and we can discuss that."

Twelve of the 52 Senate Republicans acknowledge Biden's victory, including Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine, and Mario Rubio of Florida. Seven of the group are retiring and will not be in the Senate next year.

The Post noted that of the 15 House Republicans who will say Biden won, six are retiring and two represent districts Biden won handily.

After the Post story was published, Trump called those who confirmed Biden was president-elect were "RI-NOs" — a term used for those deemed "Republican in Name Only."

Doctor who defies mask requirement suspended

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Medical Board has indefinitely suspended the medical license of a doctor who said at a pro-Trump rally that he doesn't wear a mask at his Dallas, Oregon, clinic and doesn't require his staff to wear face-coverings either.

Dr. Steven LaTulippe also said at the Nov. 7 rally in Salem that he encourages others not to wear masks, according to KGW-TV.

A state order requires health care workers to wear a mask in health care settings.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say multiple studies have shown that cloth masks are effective in slowing the transmission of the coronavirus.

Oregon regulators voted late Thursday to suspend LaTulippe's license immediately due to concerns about patient safety.

LaTulippe did not respond to a request for comment from KGW-TV and has previously declined to comment.

The suspension prevents LaTulippe, who ran a family medicine clinic called South

View Medical Arts, from practicing medicine anywhere in the state.

The Multnomah County Republican Party posted a video of LaTulippe's speech at a "Stop the Steal" post-election rally on YouTube.

"I and my staff, none of us, not once, wore a mask in my clinic," LaTulippe said, adding that people should "take off the mask of shame."

He has said publicly that he has treated about 80 patients for COVID-19, but incorrectly equated the virus to the "common cold."

SPORTS

Continued from Page 1A

That season would be followed by traditional spring sports from April 5 to the third week of May, and the year would conclude with traditional winter sports from mid-May through late June.

The seasons will be shorter than they were under the previous plan, which was slated to see the season start on Dec. 28.

Under the new plan, each of the three seasons will be six weeks long, with the last

week being a "culminating" week featuring playoffs.

Buell Gonzales Jr., Baker School District athletic director, said he sees the benefit of pushing back the start to February.

"It's good, OSAA had to do something because we weren't going to start season two (on) December 28, that was a sure thing," Gonzales said. "February is a good time."

He was also pleased that OSAA decided to shorten the seasons to avoid having seasons overlap, forcing athletes to decide which sport to participate in.

HEART TO HEART

Elks Lodge's generosity, charity make Baker City a better community

As a two-time combat veteran, I would like to publicly thank my Elks Lodge for their nice tri-tip dinner, with all the trimmings, for free, and a reasonable fee for those who aren't veterans. This is done every year on Veterans Day and it takes some doing by lots of people to accomplish this goal. This Elks Lodge does many other noble things and demonstrates charity, which in my view is the most noble of human traits.

With charity comes compassion and largesse. Being a member of this exceptionally fine fraternity, I am pleased and proud to be a part. Our community is richer for their presence here in Baker City due to their focus on service and patriotism. So, thanks again to our/my Elks Lodge for making this town a better place in every regard.

Elks care, Elks share. Indeed, they do! Something we all need more of.

Don Burrows
Baker City

Winter is here!
Cold weather can mean icy spots in shaded areas!

Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.
2390 Broadway, Baker City
541-523-5223

CASHWAY Lumber Co.

- Lumber
- Plywood
- Building Materials
- Hardware
- Paint
- Plumbing
- Electrical

And much more!

**3205 10th Street
Baker City
541-523-4422**

Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Closed Sun